



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information is in Blue Text

Event Name	21-0003 February Winter Weather 2021
Date	April 12, 2021
Time	0800
Operational Period	April 11, 2021 – April 12, 2021
Report Number	60

Regions Affected	
DPS Regions Affected	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
DDCs Active	4A, 4B, 6, 7, 9A, 9B, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16A, 16B, 16C, 16D, 18A, 18B, 19, 20, 21 & 23

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: As of April 12, FEMA has approved a total of 44,386 Individual Assistance claims totaling \$138,487,690.61 under the Individual and Households Program for Texans that suffered losses during the February Winter Weather. ([link](#))

On March 15, 2021, Governor Abbott renewed the disaster declaration for the February Winter Storm.

On March 9, U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Disaster Field Operations Center-West announced that the SBA has approved more than \$11 million in federal disaster loans for Texas businesses and residents impacted by severe winter storms that occurred February 11-21, 2021. According to Garfield, the SBA has approved \$266,200 for businesses and \$11,144,500 for residents to help rebuild and recover from this disaster.

Businesses and residents in Texas who sustained damages are encouraged to register prior to the April 20, 2021, deadline with the Federal Emergency Management Agency at www.disasterassistance.gov.

SBA continues to provide one-on-one assistance to disaster loan applicants through the following virtual centers on the days and times indicated.

**Virtual Business Recovery Center and
Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center**

Monday – Friday (5 days/week)

8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Eastern Time

FOCWAssistance@sba.gov

(800) 659-2955

Economic injury assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage. The deadline to apply for economic injury is November 19, 2021.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Interest rates can be as low as 3 percent for businesses, 2 percent for private nonprofit organizations and 1.25 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/>. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call (800) 877-8339. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The Texas counties eligible for property damage and economic injury loans are: Anderson, Angelina, Aransas, Atascosa, Austin, Bandera, Bastrop, Bee, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Bosque, Bowie, Brazoria, Brazos, Brooks, Brown, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Cherokee, Collin, Colorado, Comal, Comanche, Cooke, Coryell, Dallas, Denton, DeWitt, Duval, Eastland, Ector, Ellis, Erath, Falls, Fannin, Fort Bend, Freestone, Galveston, Gillespie, Goliad, Gonzales, Grayson, Gregg, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Hays, Henderson, Hidalgo, Hill, Hood, Houston, Howard, Hunt, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Johnson, Jones, Karnes, Kaufman, Kendall, Kleberg, Lavaca, Leon, Liberty, Limestone, Llano, Lubbock, Madison, Matagorda, Maverick, McLennan, Medina, Milam, Montague, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Navarro, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Palo Pinto, Panola, Parker, Polk, Robertson, Rockwall, Rusk, Sabine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Scurry, Shelby, Smith, Stephens, Tarrant, Taylor, Tom Green, Travis, Trinity, Tyler, Upshur, Val Verde, Van Zandt, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Washington, Webb, Wharton, Wichita, Willacy, Williamson, Wilson, Wise and Wood.

The neighboring Texas counties eligible for economic injury loans only are: Andrews, Archer, Baylor, Borden, Callahan, Camp, Cass, Clay, Coke, Coleman, Concho, Crane, Crockett, Crosby, Dawson, Delta, Dimmit, Edwards, Fayette, Fisher,

Floyd, Franklin, Frio, Garza, Glasscock, Hale, Hamilton, Haskell, Hockley, Hopkins, Irion, Jack, Kenedy, Kent, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, La Salle, Lamar, Lamb, Lampasas, Lee, Live Oak, Lynn, Marion, Martin, Mason, McCulloch, McMullen, Menard, Midland, Mills, Mitchell, Morris, Nolan, Rains, Reagan, Real, Red River, Refugio, Runnels, San Augustine, San Saba, Schleicher, Shackelford, Somervell, Starr, Sterling, Stonewall, Sutton, Terrell, Terry, Throckmorton, Upton, Uvalde, Ward, Wilbarger, Winkler, Young, Zapata and Zavala.

On March 3, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a disaster designation for 23 counties in response to severe winter weather that has impacted the state. USDA continues to review production losses in all remaining Texas counties and may make future determinations as more information becomes available. The Governor requested this designation in February.

Counties included in this designation are Cameron, Duval, Hidalgo, McLennan, Starr, Webb, and Zapata. Contiguous counties included in this designation are Bell, Bosque, Brooks, Coryell, Dimmit, Falls, Hill, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, La Salle, Limestone, Live Oak, McMullen, Maverick, and Willacy.

On March 2, Governor Abbott announced that TDEM has requested that an additional 32 counties be added to the federal Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance. The Governor originally requested Individual Assistance for all 254 Texas counties on February 18. On February 20, the White House partially approved Texas' request for a Major Disaster Declaration. The partial approval included Individual Assistance in 77 counties and Public Assistance (Emergency Protective Measures only) in all 254 counties. An additional 31 counties were approved by FEMA on February 22 with 18 counties approved on February 26 for a total of 126 counties added to the declaration.

Additional counties will continue to be re-requested as the State of Texas continues to receive information reported from individuals who have suffered damage from the winter storm. Texans are urged to fill out the TDEM's State of Texas Assessment Tool (iSTAT) to help the state identify damages across Texas and help emergency management officials gain an understanding of damages that occurred during the recent severe winter weather. TDEM will continue to share this data with FEMA until all Texas counties that qualify for federal assistance receive the assistance they need. Texans can complete the iSTAT by visiting damage.tdem.texas.gov or calling 844-844-3089.

Counties included in this request are: Archer, Callahan, Camp, Cass, Coleman, Delta, Dimmit, Fayette, Frio, Hamilton, Hardeman, Kerr, Kinney, Lamar, Lee, Marion, Menard, Midland, Mills, Mitchell, Nolan, Rains, Red River, Refugio, San Augustine, Shackelford, Starr, Titus, Uvalde, Wilbarger, Zapata, Zavala.

On February 26, Governor Abbott announced that FEMA has added 18 more Texas counties to President Biden's Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance.

The 18 counties include; Atascosa, Bandera, Brooks, Duval, Eastland, Ector, Goliad, Howard, Jim Hogg, Karnes, Kleberg, Leon, Llano, Newton, Robertson, Trinity, Webb, and Willacy.

On February 24, Governor Abbott delivered a televised statewide address on the state's response to recent power outages caused by the severe winter weather as well as the actions the state is taking to ensure the reliability of Texas' power infrastructure. [Read a transcript of Governor Abbott's address.](#)

Governor Abbott and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) have issued a temporary waiver to increase the fuel supply in Texas. This waiver permits regulated refineries to make fuel in compliance with any seasonal specifications and authorizes parties downstream of the refinery, such as terminals and retail fuel stations, to distribute fuel of any seasonal specification until stocks are depleted.

On February 25, Governor Abbott announced that TDEM has re-requested that an additional 54 counties be added to the Federal Major Disaster Declaration. The Governor originally requested Individual Assistance for all 254 Texas counties on February 18th. On February 20th, the White House partially approved Texas' request for a Major Disaster Declaration. The partial approval included Individual Assistance in 77 counties and for Public Assistance (Emergency Protective Measures Only) in all 254 counties. On Monday, TDEM re-requested — and FEMA approved — an additional 31 counties to be added to the President's Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance. Counties included in this request are Archer, Atascosa, Bandera, Brooks, Callahan, Camp, Cass, Clay, Coleman, Delta, Dimmit, Duval, Eastland, Ector, Fayette, Franklin, Frio, Goliad, Hamilton, Haskell, Howard, Irion, Jack, Jim Hogg, Karnes, Kerr, Kinney, Kleberg, Lamar, Lampasas, Lee, Leon, Live Oak, Llano, Marion, Midland, Mills, Morris, Newton, Rains, Randall, Refugio, Robertson, San Augustine, San Saba, Shackelford, Somervell, Starr, Titus, Trinity, Webb, Wilbarger, Willacy, and Young. Governor Abbott announced that TDEM, with the assistance of the Texas Military Department (TMD), launched a call center to assist Texans, who have limited or no internet access, with completing the State of Texas Assessment Tool (iSTAT). Texans can call 844-844-3089 between 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM seven days a week to submit their disaster damage information. This call center is specifically for Texans who are unable to submit information through the online iSTAT tool.

If needed, a state emergency management professional will visit impacted homes to collect photos and documentation of damage for the validation process.

Texans are urged to fill out the iSTAT, either online or over the phone if internet access is limited, to help the state identify damages across Texas and help emergency management officials gain an understanding of damages that occurred during the recent severe winter weather event. This data is also needed to provide information to FEMA and highlight the need for federal disaster assistance for individuals.

Visit <http://damage.tdem.texas.gov> to fill out the iSTAT.

On February 24, Governor Abbott and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) have extended the submission deadline for housing tax credit applications. The original deadline of March 1 has been pushed to Monday, March 8th at 5:00 PM CT to allow extra time for housing developers to secure documentation or other communications needed while people were out of service. Governor Abbott announced that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has received federal approval to automatically provide replacement benefits for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients in 66 impacted counties for food lost or destroyed due to winter storm Uri, which began on Feb. 11. Those 66 counties met federal criteria for mass replacements of benefits based on the severity of storm impacts in their area.

Counties eligible to receive automatic partial replacement include: Angelina, Aransas, Bastrop, Blanco, Borden, Brazoria, Brewster, Burnet, Calhoun, Chambers, Coke, Colorado, Comanche, Cooke, Delta, Duval, Eastland, Edwards, Falls, Frio, Galveston, Garza, Gillespie, Glasscock, Goliad, Haskell, Irion, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kerr, Kinney, Knox, La Salle, Leon, Liberty, Live Oak, Llano, Loving, Lynn, Martin, Matagorda, McCulloch, Medina, Menard, Mitchell, Montgomery, Oldham, Parker, Reagan, Refugio, San Patricio, San Saba, Stephens, Sterling, Sutton, Terrell, Throckmorton, Trinity, Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Waller, Williamson, Young, Zapata, and Zavala. Texans who do not live in one of the 66 eligible counties have until March 31 to report SNAP food loss and request replacement benefits. SNAP recipients in these counties must apply for replacement benefits. SNAP recipients in the 66 counties can also report other food loss and request additional benefits until March 31.

To check benefit amounts deposited on a card, SNAP recipients with an online account can visit YourTexasBenefits.com, or they can call the Lone Star Help Desk at 800-777-7328.

On February 23, Governor Abbott and the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners (TSPBE) announced that the board has identified an additional 500 licensees, as of Sunday, who are capable of performing plumbing under general supervision.

On February 22, Governor Abbott announced that FEMA has approved an additional 31 Texas counties to be added to the President's Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance. Counties included in this approval are Anderson, Austin, Bosque, Bowie, Burnet, Cherokee, Colorado, Erath, Fannin, Freestone, Gonzales, Grayson, Gregg, Harrison, Hill, Houston, Hunt, Jackson, Jim Wells, Jones, Limestone, Lubbock, Medina, Milam, Navarro, Rusk, Taylor, Tom Green, Val Verde, Washington, Wood.

On February 21, Governor Abbott provided an update on the state's efforts to provide water and other resources to Texans across the state. In addition, the

Governor waived regulations to allow the use of unlicensed kitchens to prepare meals to donate to Texans so long as they abide by guidance issued by DSHS. Governor Abbott also mentioned that he is working with members of the legislature to address skyrocketing energy bills that resulted from a temporary spike in the energy market. The Governor stated that the PUC has issued a moratorium on customer disconnections for non-payment and will temporarily restrict providers from issuing invoices. This pause will ensure that the state has time to address these bills and develop a solution for Texans. Governor Abbott announced HHSC received federal approval to allow Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to use their food benefits to purchase hot foods and ready-to-eat meals due to impacts from the severe winter storm.

HHSC received federal approval today from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service. The waiver allows SNAP recipients to purchase these ready-made foods with their Lone Star Cards through the end of March.

On February 20, Governor Abbott announced that President Biden has partially approved Texas' request for a Major Disaster Declaration (DR-4586-TX). The Biden administration approved the request for Individual Assistance in 77 counties and for Public Assistance (Emergency Protective Measures Only) in all 254 counties.

The Governor and TDEM will continue to work to ensure that the federal government provides appropriate assistance to individual Texans as well as to the state and local governments.

The Governor requested the Major Disaster Declaration to provide Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, and Hazard Mitigation for individuals and communities affected by this week's severe winter weather. The following counties were approved for Individual Assistance: Angelina, Aransas, Bastrop, Bee, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Brazoria, Brazos, Brown, Burleson, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Collin, Comal, Comanche, Cooke, Coryell, Dallas, Denton, DeWitt, Ellis, Falls, Fort Bend, Galveston, Gillespie, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Hays, Henderson, Hidalgo, Hood, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Kaufman, Kendall, Lavaca, Liberty, Madison, Matagorda, Maverick, McLennan, Montague, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Nueces, Orange, Palo Pinto, Panola, Parker, Polk, Rockwall, Sabine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Scurry, Shelby, Smith, Stephens, Tarrant, Travis, Tyler, Upshur, Van Zandt, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Wharton, Wichita, Williamson, Wilson, and Wise Counties.

Individuals and business owners in counties included in the President's declaration who sustained losses in the designated area can begin applying for assistance by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-3362 or 1-800-462-7585

On February 20, Governor Abbott issued waivers to temporarily allow for DSHS to cover overtime payments for meat inspectors in Texas. DSHS will pay overtime costs for meat inspectors that are working to restore the meat supply in Texas over

the next week. Governor Abbott waived certain regulations for certain registered and qualified Plumber's Apprentices in Texas. These waivers allow a Plumber's Apprentice, who has met all other qualifications, to temporarily perform plumbing repairs without 'direct' supervision by a licensed plumber so long as the qualified Plumber's Apprentice works under the general supervision of a responsible master plumber. Governor Abbott issued a statement after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued waivers to increase access to gasoline and diesel fuel in certain Texas communities impacted by winter weather. These waivers temporarily allow for the use of an additional or alternate type of fuel for Texas Low Emissions Diesel and oxygenated gasoline fuels. The TCEQ submitted a request for these waivers yesterday. Governor Abbott convened a meeting with Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, Speaker Dade Phelan, and members of the Legislature to discuss the spike in energy bills affecting many Texans following the recent power outages throughout the state. Governor Abbott opened the call by discussing financial challenges many Texans will face as a result of the winter storm. He also gave an update on his conversations with the White House and potential federal relief that may be available to Texans. Governor Abbott waived regulations to enable trucks from the alcohol industry to deliver non-alcoholic grocery supplies, including bottled water and other necessities, to grocery stores. These waivers will help expedite the delivery and replenishment of products in grocery stores across the state.

On February 19, Governor Abbott and TDEM are encouraging Texans to complete the Self Reporting Damage Survey to help the state identify damages across Texas and help emergency management officials gain an understanding of damages that occurred during the recent winter weather. Governor Abbott requested a major disaster declaration, which is under review. FEMA has moved water, blankets, shelf-stable meals, generators, and fuel to help states respond to this event. Governor Abbott provided an update on the state's ongoing response to winter weather events throughout the state. The Governor laid out four immediate priorities for the State of Texas, as well as what the state is doing to restore power and water and ensure that food and fuel demands are met throughout Texas.

The first immediate priority is continuing to restore power to Texas homes.

The second priority is supporting local officials as they work to restore water for Texans.

The third priority is ensuring Texans have the food and supplies they need.

The fourth priority is helping refineries get back up and running to provide Texans with the fuel they need.

On February 18, Governor Abbott temporarily waived certain regulations from the Department of Motor Vehicles to aid in the response to winter weather and power outages throughout the state. These waivers helped increase the delivery of water, food, and other supplies to Texas communities dealing with power and water

outages. These suspensions were in addition to the oversize and overweight permitting waivers and the hours-of-service requirement waivers issued by Governor Abbott last Friday, which allowed critical infrastructure, food, water, and supplies to travel on the state highway system to areas of need. As part of his update, the Governor declared a new emergency item for this legislative session. The Governor is asking the Legislature to mandate the winterization of Texas' power system and for the Legislature to ensure the necessary funding for winterization.

In addition, the Governor announced he is requesting a Major Disaster Declaration — which includes Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program — from the White House. This declaration will allow eligible Texans to apply for assistance to help address broken pipes and related property damage. The Governor previously requested a Federal Emergency Declaration from the White House which was granted on Sunday.

On February 17, Governor Abbott provided an update on the state's response to severe winter weather conditions and power outages throughout the state.

The Governor ordered natural gas producers not to export product out of state until February 21 and instead, sell it to providers within Texas. The Governor also noted that he had been working closely with the White House to provide additional resources for Texans and expand the supply of the energy in the state. The RRC had worked closely with the PUC, ERCOT, and other state and local agencies to ensure that electricity and gas could swiftly be provided across the state.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) addressed water quality issues that impacted communities across the state. TCEQ worked with water quality labs to ensure the safety of drinking water. TCEQ also worked with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to identify other water quality labs in partnering states to provide additional assistance.

The Governor discussed the ways the state had dealt with plumbing challenges. The Texas Board of Plumbing Examiners gave provisional licenses to out-of-state plumbers to increase the response to burst pipes and flooding. The Governor also issued a waiver that allowed plumbers currently holding an expired license to assist with Texans in need following the storm through the waiving of certain fees and examination requirements.

TDEM Chief Nim Kidd noted that many state agencies were continuing to work together to support local officials, first responders, and communities impacted by the weather. TXDPS have transported fuel, blood, and other resources to hospitals and other essential facilities, and have responded to vehicle crashes throughout the state. Over 4,500 TxDOT employees were operating over 740 snowplows and other equipment to address the ice on interstates throughout Texas. DSHS, HHSC, and TPWD were also assisting in the state's response.

TDEM had assisted in the establishment of warming centers throughout the state. Over 300 warming centers were operational. TDEM also worked with FEMA to increase disaster resources for Texans impacted by the storm.

On February 15, Governor Abbott announced that the State of Texas deployed maximum resources to local officials throughout the state to respond to severe winter weather and to restore power to our communities.

Furthermore, Governor Abbott and the Texas Military Department (TMD) deployed the National Guard across Texas to conduct welfare checks and to assist local authorities in transitioning Texans in need to one of the 135 local warming centers that the state has helped establish across Texas.

On Sunday, Governor Abbott sought and received a waiver from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that allows Texas power generators to increase production.

On February 14, Governor Abbott announced that the White House issued a Federal Emergency Declaration for Texas in response to the severe winter weather throughout the state (EM-3554-TX).

This Federal Emergency Declaration authorizes FEMA to provide emergency protective measures for mass care and sheltering and Direct Federal Assistance for all 254 counties in Texas.

On February 13, Governor Abbott announced that he will request a Federal Emergency Declaration from the White House to make additional resources available for communities impacted by this weather event.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Protect life and property.
2. Damage assessments.
3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

State Resources Committed:

Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas A&M University System (TDEM): The State of Texas SOC remains at Readiness Level II Escalated Response Conditions, with Daily Operations staff coordinating daily weather calls, processing disaster declarations, letters to the Governor, Disaster Summary Outlines, State of Texas Assistance Requests (STARs), preparing Snapshots and the State SITREPs. The State Management Team (SMT) continues conducting operations in the Remote

SOC, working together with activated members of the State's Emergency Management Council. TDEM District Coordinators are working closely with their local emergency management partners and various members of the public health community to assist with unmet needs and resources. TDEM has also submitted several requests to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VI Response Center for fuel, water, transportation, ambulances, blankets, generators, and other emergency supplies.

Texas Division of Emergency Management – Disaster Recovery Task Force (TDEM-DRTF): Continues to assist with mass care needs and regional situational awareness.

Texas Military Department (TMD): TMD continues to support the February winter weather response in Texas:

- 16 personnel remain deployed in support of the Winter Weather Response.
- Manning a call center for Texans to report property damage and unmet needs.
- Health and Safety Assessment Teams have been activated in two TDEM regions.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TMD	Call Center	6		Assigned	Austin/SOC
TMD	Assessment Teams	10		Assigned	Statewide

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) is at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions). The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional situation reports as needed.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

Level I (Emergency Conditions)

Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
Level III(Increased Readiness Conditions)
Level IV (Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at:
<https://tdem.texas.gov/situation-reports/>

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